

**Minutes of the AFC Meeting
October 5, 2021
Held by Zoom**

PRESENT: J. Allan; S. Asselin; R. Baker; K. Bessant; D. Combet; W. Cook; K. deForest; J. Dolecki; R. Dwivedula; R. Elliott; R. Gasse; S. Grills; D. Hétu; R. Hinther; R. Kramer; D. Lakevold; L. MacKay; M. Malainey; A. Marshall; C. Mason; V. Maud; L. Mayer; A. McCulloch; L. McLachlan; E. Mihelakis; K. Noll; S. Petrella; I. Puppe; D. Ramsey; W. Robles; B. Rose; J. Russell; K. Saunders; B. Strang; D. Taylor; M. Torabi; E. Varley; D. Winter; K. Wong; F. Zehtab-Jadid; J. Lindsay (Science); M. Milosevic (BUSU); T. Gill (Student Services); L. Jardine; L. Murray; S. Mott (recorder); B. Spence (Chair).

ABSENT: A. Abdou; B. Ashton; M. Hamon; D. Klonowski; M. Malazdrewicz; K. McKenzie; C. Schneider; H. Venema; L. Xu; H. Zhuang; C. Kazakoff-Lane (Library)

REGRETS: E. Holland; S. Medd; L. Wood

ON LEAVE: C. Boulton; J. Forsythe; P. Harms; H. Liu; J. Naylor; D. Racine; L. Robson; D. Smid

GUESTS: Dr. Kofi Campbell, V-P Academic and Provost

Dr. Balfour Spence welcomed members to the meeting and gave the land acknowledgement. A special welcome to visiting members outside the Faculty of Arts

1.0 Approval of the Agenda

MOTION: (Kramer/Torabi) - THAT the Agenda be approved.

CARRIED.

3.0 Approval of the Minutes

Dr. Petrella raised concerns that the minutes from last meeting do not accurately provide a comprehensive account of the decanal search discussion.

MOTION: (Petrella/Ramsey) – THAT the approval of the Minutes from the September 7 minutes be deferred to next meeting.

CARRIED.

4.0 Chair's Report

Dr. Spence discussed how we are off to a good start with the new semester. He extends a sincere thank you to all faculty for helping to get us to a good place.

Since the last AFC, there have been many meetings involving vaccination policy. The policy is now a reality and outside of medical or religious reasons, vaccination policy comes into effect Oct 31. Please familiarize yourself with policy. Dr. Spence encourages you to upload the relevant information to the portal.

In addition, discussions are on the way regarding a number of changes to our academic process. Service learning may see some changes, PLAR and Credit Challenge process among them. Want to move towards a consistent and friendly process. The Dean will keep members updated.

A search for a new RDI Director has been initiated. The first meeting is scheduled for tomorrow. An update will be provided at the next AFC meeting in November.

We have all put in an enormous amount of energy and resources into the creation and online delivery of courses through the pandemic. As we transition into more face to face classes, it leaves the question on what we do with that effort. Do we leave it for the next pandemic or do we capitalize on the progress we have made in terms of pandemic course delivery. We may think about offering some of these courses online on a more continuous basis. Just food for thought. If we decide to do something like that, what would it look like? What kind of accommodations will be needed to make it a reality? Let us think about it more.

A question was raised regarding who will own the copyright of the courses. A member noted that BUFA will need to be involved from day one regarding what the ramifications are, what the situation is, what we can and cannot do. Dr. Spence absolutely agrees that this will be an initiative for everyone: for administration, faculty, for everyone. Those thoughts are very welcome.

Dr. MacKay questioned what criteria was used to determine who would receive student markers and who would not. A colleague did not get marking assistance even though they have a heavy first year course with over 30 students. Dr. Spence deferred comment as this was not an agenda item and he was not prepared to answer at this time. The member felt an answer was most important. Dr. Spence suggested they talk about it at a mutually agreeable time.

4.0 New Business

4.1 New courses/Course Changes

Dr. Petrella reviewed the course changes from Sociology and Gender & Women's Studies.

MOTION: (Hanemaayer/Petrella) – THAT the calendar description for 36/90:350 be changed and that the course title be changed to *Social Movements*.

The title change is to improve students' understanding of course content and to reflect the language students use to describe the course. The new course description centers the study of social movements as primary agents of social change.

CARRIED.

Dr. Petrella reviewed the course changes from Sociology and Justice Studies 56/90:359.

Dr. Gasse suggested that the form be completed entirely and accurately before sending to CAP.

MOTION: (Petrella/Grills) – THAT 56/90.359 *Crime, Law and Media* course prerequisite be changed from "9 credit hours of Sociology at the 100 level" to read "9 credit hours of Sociology."

CARRIED.

Dr. Petrella reviewed the course changes from Sociology and Gender & Women's Studies. The title change is to improve student understanding of course content and to reflect its cross listing with Gender and Women's Studies. The course title and description now emphasize the feminist framing of the course.

MOTION: (Petrella/Hanemaayer) – THAT the course title for 36/90.361 be changed to *Sex, Gender, Shopping* and that the course description be updated.

CARRIED.

4.2 Off-Campus Activities Plan

This speaks to liability issues and processes that we need to enact in order to ensure safety of all off-campus activities, field trips, overseas trips, etc. No concerns or issues were raised with the previously circulated document. Please bring any questions or suggestions to the Acting Dean's Office.

4.3 Support for Students Experiencing Sexual Harassment on Campus

Dr. Steve Asselin spoke to the concern regarding the lack of communication and follow up from Brandon University regarding the recent (alleged) events concerning the women's soccer coach and his female students/team members. Faculty should know what is happening when students come for mentorship and advice. Discussion ensued about various issues and concerns with this incident.

Lengthy discussion continued with Dr. Corinne Mason speaking about concerns with process issues and complainants receiving counselling services as well as financial compensation. Concern for lack of support to these students is wide-felt. The sexual violence coordinator needs to be hired at 100%. Dr. MacKay agrees but added that policies must be followed. Student counselling should only be given if students require or request these services. Dr. Jonathan Allen agrees but echoes concern with policies not being followed. Dr. Mason stated that policy and protocol involves both a practice and there is a governance issue. Sexual Violence Education Prevention Coordinator is only accountable to the administration, not to the campus community, so no one can actually hold the university accountable when they do not follow their policy or protocol: this includes budget cuts and policy renewal.

MOTION: (Asselin/Mason) – THAT the Faculty of Arts supports students who have experienced sexual harassment on campus and from university employees and encourages the university to amend its policies, procedure and protocol to ensure that such problems in reporting do not happen again; and THAT the University pay for the external counselling services needed by the students (if they so desire), and that we recommend the Sexual Violence coordinator position be reinstated at 100%.

CARRIED.

Dr. Spence will take this further and will update Faculty as necessary.

5.0 Business Arising from the Minutes

5.1 Arts Faculty Selection Committee Procedures – AFC Review and Planning

Rick Baker: Review not complete. Report will be deferred to next meeting.

Dr. Spence noted an item that could have been added to the agenda. He referred to the concern about the September 30 holiday, missed class hours, and extending a last day of classes to accommodate this lost class time. Concern was taken to Senate and the decision was that all classes may proceed with fewer class hours or a faculty member may submit a request to reschedule their class. The conditions are 1. The missed class must be a 3 hour class originally scheduled for Sept 30th. 2. Unanimous agreement must be held by entire class both on having the make-up class and on the date and time of the make-up class. 3. the vote must be conducted using secret ballot, preferably by email, to avoid pressure on students to hold the make-up class. 4. an appropriate room must be booked where COVID protocols can be followed. Some may use December 9 but there is a level of flexibility for faculty and students in accommodating the make-up class if it is deemed necessary and is in agreement.

Dr. Asselin did not realize this matter was still in discussion and felt it was late to be inserting this criteria. He suggested such decisions should have been made earlier and noted that he has updated his syllabi and already made these arrangements. Dr. Allan agreed that the lateness of these decisions is very problematic. He also sought clarification as to where on the agenda this item was. Dr. Spence

noted that the item failed to be included under Business Arising from the Minutes and so it was added now.

5.2 Inclusive Post-Secondary Education (Letter from Dr. Docherty)

Dr. Petrella noted that Victoria Lelond reached out and that they have a meeting with Kofi Campbell. She asked that we bring this forward to the next AFC.

MOTION: (Petrella/Hanemaayer) -- THAT this matter be brought forward to the next AFC after meeting with VP Dr. Kofi Campbell.

CARRIED.

5.3 COVID-19 Protocols – Pilot Project in School of Music

This was pre-policy and is now redundant.

5.4 Decanal Search - Motions

Dr. Spence excused himself from the meeting. Dr. Scott Grills introduced himself and, as Vice-Chair of AFC, stepped in for this agenda item. Dr. Kofi Campbell was invited to speak in regards to decanal search motions but Dr. Grills noted he was no longer in attendance. The Chair reminded members of the motions pending and that the polling function is anonymous.

Prof. Dolecki would like to add a motion to defer the motions to a special AFC meeting, so that the decanal search recommendations, which were just circulated yesterday, can be properly reviewed. Dr. Allison McCulloch noted the lateness of the meeting and felt the proposed motions warrant special attention. A special meeting would give everyone a chance to discuss these motions, without excluding members who teach in slot 13. Dr. MacKay requested that the special meeting take place within two weeks of today's date because there is a concern that not doing so may delay a decision from administration. Dr. Doug Ramsey requested follow up with Dr. Campbell and that AFC invite him to attend the special AFC meeting. Dr. Winter raised a concern that policy changes would be binding on all faculties and all decanal searches and questioned how quickly things could move forward. Dr. Grills stated that he is aware that Dr. Campbell is attending other faculty councils and units with directors on this matter.

MOTION: (Dolecki/McCulloch) – THAT we defer item 5.4, and the motions contained therein, until the decanal search recommendations are considered at a special AFC meeting.

CARRIED.

6.0 Other Business/Announcements

None.

7.0 Adjournment

MOTION: (Combet/Robles) -- THAT the meeting adjourn.

CARRIED.

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.